

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are pleased that you have pledged to remove restrictions on remittances and travel by Cuban Americans to Cuba and are optimistic about the initial steps your administration has taken to date regarding Cuba. Nevertheless, we encourage you to go beyond restoring Cuban American rights by making significant changes to our overall policy toward Cuba.

Religious groups, human rights advocates, foreign policy experts, U.S. business leaders, and the majority of Cuban-Americans are among those who support significant revision of our policy toward Cuba. National polls consistently indicate that a majority of Americans believe they should be able to travel to and trade with Cuba and that Washington and Havana should reestablish diplomatic relations.

The international community is clearly calling for change. In recent months the European Union has restored full relations with Cuba. El Salvador and Costa Rica, the only two countries in Central America without full relations with Cuba, recently announced that they would reestablish diplomatic ties.

In December 2008 at the Rio Group Summit, 33 Heads of State from Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed Cuba as a full member. To further demonstrate support 13 CARICOM heads of state, Bachelet (Chile), da Silva (Brazil), Kirchner (Argentina), Torrijos (Panama), Correa (Ecuador), Colom (Guatemala) and Zelaya (Honduras), Morales (Bolivia), and Chavez (Venezuela) have visited Cuba and have publicly called on the U.S. to lift the embargo.

While there may be no certainty with respect to reforms taking place in Cuba, it is clear that it is in our national interests to play a constructive role in Cuba's future. We ask you to consider the following 10 steps that the administration could take toward that end.

1. **Travel-** Reestablish all categories of permissible travel set forth in the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (31 CFR, Part 515) and broaden those categories to be as inclusive as possible.

2. **Remittances-** Remove amount limits and allow all Americans to send remittances to any recipient regardless of relationship.
3. **Gift Parcels-** Roll back to pre-2004 language regulations on gift parcels to Cuba, found in the Export Administration Regulations and implemented by the Commerce Department.
4. **Agricultural Trade-** Roll back to pre-February 2005 CARC language that defined the term "payment of cash in advance" as requiring the seller to receive payment while the goods were in transit or before they arrived at a Cuban port.
5. **Vessel Entry-** Instruct Treasury to Increase issuance of specific licenses to vessels waiving the 180 day prohibition on entry to the U.S. under the Cuba Democracy Act.
6. **Security-** Allow/pursue expanded cooperation between U.S. and Cuban security and law enforcement agencies on issues such as anti-terrorism, immigration, disaster preparedness, drug trafficking, energy and the environment. For starters, exchange liaison officers, reestablish bi-annual immigration talks and establish cooperation with the Cuban Counter Narcotics Taskforce.
7. **State Sponsor of Terrorism-** Cuba does not provide critical support to non-state terrorist groups; therefore they should be removed as a designated state sponsor of terrorism. Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act, Section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, and Section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 set forth ways by which the President can remove a country from the list.
8. **Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act-** Remove Cuba from the list of countries that are not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts. The Secretary of State makes this determination annually in May.
9. **Foreign Assistance-** Provide aid for international disaster relief and rehabilitation, disaster preparedness, and for the prediction and planning for natural disasters under Section 491 of the FAA of 1961. Provide health related assistance under Section 104 of the FAA. Authorize assistance in the interest of US national security under Section 614 of the FAA.
10. **Organization of American States (OAS)-** Instruct the US Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States not to oppose Cuba's full participation.

These are options that we believe would result in better relations between the United States and the whole of Latin America and improve our standing in the world.

Sincerely,

Sam Tan

Liz Capps

Dms Mason

Aimee Watson

Lynne Walsh

Del Watt

Cheri Falt

Ms. Brown

Jack Raball

Ally R

Danny O'Connell

Steve Sobak

Steve Cohen

Jan Schaefer

John Conyers

Ed Stange

Diana DeLoe

Marcy Kaptur

Michael ~~Hand~~ ^{viva!}

Bob Miller

Richard Linn

John Dale

Ed Foster

Evelyn Blumenauer

Ron Kind

Keith El


TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress

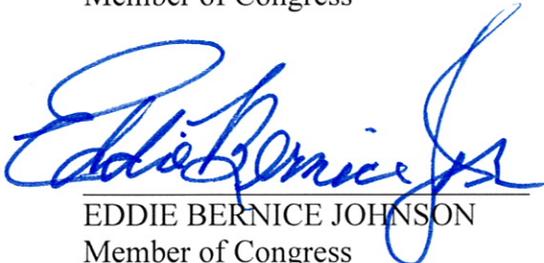

MARION BERRY
Member of Congress

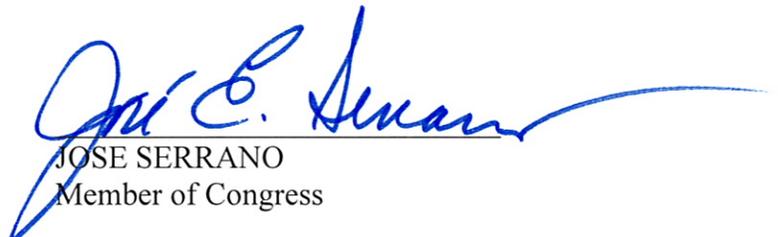

RON PAUL
Member of Congress


LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

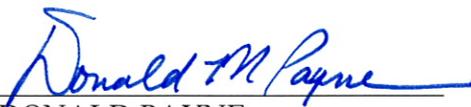

MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress


JOHN OLVER
Member of Congress


EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress


JOSE SERRANO
Member of Congress


JOHN TANNER
Member of Congress


DONALD PAYNE
Member of Congress


LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress


GREGORY MEEKS
Member of Congress


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress


JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



RICHARD NEAL
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



BARNEY FRANK
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress



COLLIN PETERSON
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary of Treasury Tim Geithner

CC: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

CC: Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon